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Washington Whispers

The way CIA insiders tell it, the White House is so down on intelligence chief Stansfield Turner that it often bypasses him and now relies more on assessments by the agency's No. 2 man, Frank Carlucci.

A fire that damaged the building opposite the U.S. Embassy in Moscow—the building from which radiation rays are beamed into the embassy—provided only temporary relief for American diplomats. Within days, beams from another nearby structure were stepped up to the old level.

Western intelligence sources say the Soviet grain harvest is turning out to be much smaller than grandiose official claims. Result: Russia will be trying to buy grain from the U.S., other Western nations for most of 1979.